

Amendment to the specification:

Amend the paragraph in lines 1-8 on page 17 of the specification as indicated:

Thus, during lean operation where NOx is occluded, the catalyst outlet [NOx] is detected captured from the NOx sensor provided downstream of the catalyst and the captured actually measured value according to the equation (1) and the estimated value according to the equation (2) are compared with each other, then an accurate NOx occlusion amount can be obtained by correcting the coefficient ki by the method of least square for each comparison.